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Application No. 10/718,614

Docket No.: 615388001US1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Presently Amended) A method for conducting a vision examination by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders amblyopia, comprising:

positioning a display medium at a predetermined distance from a patient's eyes sufficient to screen a patient for amblyopia from a patient's eyes, wherein the display medium ~~is capable of~~ individually and successively displaying displays optotypes of different sizes and shapes for enabling the examiner to assess a patient's visual acuity, and wherein the sizes of the optotypes are calibrated for display at the predetermined distance;

controlling the display medium to individually ~~and successively~~ present a plurality of optotypes at a plurality of successive levels for the patient to view from the predetermined distance, wherein the optotypes of a same level are of the same size, and each successive level contains optotypes of a successively smaller size; and

for each optotype displayed to the patient, requesting the patient to find a matching optotype on a reference to confirm that the patient is able to see the optotype on the display medium, wherein, for each level, a correct response from the patient to a plurality of presented optotypes greater than a minimum number of the individually-presented optotypes is required before proceeding to a next level.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the display medium is a computer-controlled screen.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the computer-controlled screen is portable.

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24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the examiner controls the display of optotypes on the display medium by a remote control unit.

25. (Presently Amended) A method of conducting a vision examination by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders, comprising;

measuring a predetermined distance from a patient's eyes sufficient to screen a patient for amblyopia ~~from a patient's eyes~~, wherein the predetermined distance is sufficient to evaluate the patient for amblyopia ~~distance-vision~~;

positioning an electronic display medium at the predetermined distance from the patient's eyes, for individually and successively displaying optotypes of sizes calibrated for display at the predetermined distance, and wherein the optotypes are of different sizes to provide an indication of visual acuity at one of a plurality of particular vision levels;

controlling the electronic display medium to ~~successively~~ individually display a plurality of optotypes at a plurality of successive levels ~~an optotype~~ and requesting the patient to identify the displayed ~~optotype~~ optotypes using a reference optotype, wherein the optotypes of a same level are of the same size, and each successive level contains optotypes of a successively smaller size, and

continuing to display optotypes until a sufficient number has been displayed to screen the patient for a particular vision disorder.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the display medium is a liquid crystal display.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the patient can be screened for amblyopia by determining whether the patient can correctly match at least three out of four optotypes to a vision level of approximately 20/30.

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28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the examination is conducted with one eye covered at a time, and the predetermined distance is sufficient to screen a child's vision for amblyopia.

29. (Presently Amended) A vision screening apparatus for use by an examiner for screening vision in a patient to detect vision disorders, comprising;

(a) a display medium for successively and individually displaying a plurality of optotypes in each of varying sizes at a plurality of successive levels, calibrated to indicate an assessment of visual acuity, wherein the display medium is to be positioned at a predetermined distance from a patient's eyes, and wherein optotypes of a same level are of the same size, and each successive level contains optotypes of a successively smaller size; and

(b) an optotype reference, to be positioned at a close distance from the patient to enable the patient to select an optotype on the reference that matches the optotype displayed on the display medium at a given time,

wherein the predetermined distance is at least a minimum distance from the patient to screen a patient for amblyopia ~~measure distance vision~~, and is less than a maximum distance by which the examiner can be in close proximity to both the display medium and the reference,

whereby the examiner monitors responses from the patient at the reference to determine whether the patient is able to see the optotypes displayed successively on the display medium.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the display medium is an electronic display.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the electronic display is a flat panel display.

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32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the flat panel display is an LCD monitor.

33. (Previously presented) A method for conducting a vision examination of a child by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders, comprising:

positioning a portable display medium at a predetermined distance from a child's eyes sufficient to screen a child for amblyopia ~~from a patient's eyes~~ that is capable of successively displaying optotypes of different sizes and shapes for enabling the examiner to assess the child's ~~a patient's~~ visual acuity, and wherein the sizes of the optotypes are calibrated for display at the predetermined distance;

presenting optotypes from the display medium for the child ~~patient~~ to view from the predetermined distance with one eye occluded at a time; and

for each optotype displayed to the child ~~patient~~, requesting the child ~~patient~~ to find a matching optotype on a reference to confirm that the child ~~patient~~ is able to appropriately process images from the unoccluded eye ~~see the optotype on the display medium~~.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the examiner is positioned substantially between and within arm's reach of both the display medium and the patient, such that the examiner can shift between viewing either the displayed optotypes or the reference without substantially changing position.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the examiner controls the display of optotypes on the display medium by a remote control unit.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the patient can be screened for amblyopia by determining whether the patient can correctly match at least three out of four optotypes to a vision level of approximately 20/30.

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38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the examination is conducted with one eye covered at a time, and the predetermined distance is sufficient to screen a child's vision for amblyopia.

39. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the predetermined distance is between 2.5 and 5 feet.